

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Twenty-seventh Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Twenty-seventh Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 1.0% (1,231) reside in the Twenty-seventh Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (233) of Twenty-seventh Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 75.1% of admissions from the Twenty-seventh Middlesex Representative District were male and 24.8% were female.
- Over 63.9% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 67.4% of admissions were white non-Latino, 20.2% were black non-Latino, 7.9% were Latino, 0.2% were Asian and 4.2% were other racial categories.
- 64.8% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 8.8% were married, and 18.5% reported not to be married now.
- 26.22% of admissions had less than high school education, 43.3% completed high school, and 30.4% had more than high school education.
- 20.4% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 33.4% of those admitted were homeless.
- 13.6% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Twenty-seventh Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Twenty-seventh Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	2,486	2,109	747	841	568	617	364
FY '96	2,004	1,705	689	708	546	542	377
FY '97	1,932	1,657	656	620	478	561	403
FY '98	1,744	1,439	529	523	384	536	426
FY '99	1,665	1,335	457	476	309	574	406
FY '00	1,397	1,073	299	367	220	487	379
FY '01	1,231	960	317	286	152	436	322

- Since FY 1995, residents of Twenty-seventh Middlesex Representative District reported a decrease across all the drug categories.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting alcohol use decreased by 54%, marijuana by 57%, cocaine by 65%, crack by 73%, and heroin use by 29%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Twenty-seventh Middlesex Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	54.4%	29.6%	5.1%	3.4%	3.9%
State	46.4%	35.9%	6.5%	3.8%	3.4%

- While cocaine and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, alcohol as a primary drug was higher, and, heroin and marijuana was lower within your District.